



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



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CHDP Program Letter No.: 03-31

TO: ALL LOCAL CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)
PROGRAM DIRECTORS, DEPUTY DIRECTORS, STATE CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH STAFF AND REGIONAL OFFICE
STAFF

SUBJECT: THE CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)
GATEWAY AND MINORS IN CUSTODY OR DETENTION AT THE
COUNTY LEVEL IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The implementation of the CHDP Gateway has resulted in changes to the CHDP Program that affect reimbursement for health care provided to minors in custody or detention in county juvenile halls and juvenile detention facilities.

Counties are responsible for operation of juvenile halls and juvenile detention facilities within their jurisdictions. This responsibility includes the provision of health care to minors in custody or detention, including the intake health screening and health assessments provided to minors newly placed in custody or detention. In some instances in the past, when these health assessments were delivered by providers enrolled in the CHDP Program and when the minor's parent or legal guardian certified that the minor was income eligible for the CHDP Program, CHDP, rather than the counties, reimbursed these providers for these health assessments.

On July 1, 2003, the Department of Health Services implemented the CHDP Gateway to Medi-Cal and Healthy Families (HF) to provide expanded access to comprehensive health care for children from low-income families. Under the Gateway, a CHDP Gateway eligible child will be electronically pre-enrolled in Medi-Cal for up to a two-month period when the child receives a CHDP health assessment at a CHDP provider office. The provider first makes a preliminary determination that child's family income is equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level based on a self-declaration of income eligibility signed by the child's parent or legal guardian.

Pre-enrollment qualifies the medical services, during the pre-enrollment period, for federal funding under Title XIX (i.e., Medicaid) and Title XXI (i.e., State Children's Health Insurance Program) of the Social Security Act. Over 1,000,000 children are expected to take advantage of the expanded health coverage opportunity. Many of these children will subsequently be determined eligible for enrollment in regular Medi-Cal or a HF Health Plan.

Both state and federal law prohibit payment by Medi-Cal for services provided to persons in custody or detention in the criminal justice system. Electronic pre-enrollment through the Gateway is not available to youths under the age of 19 that are in custody or detention in county juvenile facilities.

To ensure that there is no disruption of access to health assessments and immunizations for CHDP children, the old CHDP paper self-declaration of eligibility process for state-funded services has been phased out over a six-month period. During this transition period CHDP providers have been reimbursed by CHDP by submitting PM-160 claims for CHDP services with a paper DHS 4073 CHDP Eligibility Form executed by the child's parent or guardian attached. The transition period will end on December 31, 2003. Thereafter, all children must be made eligible for services electronically through the Gateway.

Until January 1, 2004, using the paper eligibility certification process, CHDP providers can continue to receive state-funded reimbursement for CHDP services provided to minors in custody or detention in the juvenile justice system in accordance with CHDP Program Letter No. 98-6, dated April 7, 1998, when the following conditions are met:

- The health assessments are provided by a CHDP-enrolled provider,
- A self declaration of income eligibility for CHDP is obtained from the parent or guardian of the minor by the CHDP-enrolled provider, and
- The CHDP provider bills other health coverage, not CHDP, for the health assessment if the minor has private insurance.

CHDP providers cannot establish presumptive eligibility through the Gateway for children or youths under the age of 19 who are in custody or detention in county juvenile facilities. Furthermore, effective January 1, 2004, providers must bill the *counties*, not CHDP, for intake health screening and health assessment services provided to this population.

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If you have any questions, please contact Harvey Fry, at (916) 327-2435.

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